

Annual Report 2000

From the Office of Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer

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Let's Vote! Alaska

A special voter outreach and education effort by Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer and an army of Alaska volunteers helped boost voter turnout in 2000 among Alaska's youngest voters by **48 percent**, reversing a discouraging trend of declining youth participation in voting.

Ulmer launched the nonpartisan *Let's Vote! Alaska: New Voters for a New Millennium* initiative in February, 2000 to address concerns about reduced

Elections 2000: Florida and other states could learn much from Alaska

By Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer

The 2000 presidential election focused unprecedented attention on the way election systems are run. No election system is perfect, no matter how close to the technological cutting edge it is, how easy it is to use, or how well-trained the professionals are who are running it. Over 287,000 Alaskans voted in the 2000 General Election and over 2,500 people worked in 451 polling places all over Alaska. Our elections went smoothly and accurately for several reasons.

Alaska has a centralized system which results in uniformity and accountability. The Division of Elections has the authority to ensure uniform elections procedures, ballots and equipment for all state and national elections, statewide. This is rare, as most states are like Florida, with a patchwork quilt of different ballots, different rules and different systems in each county.

--More Elections 2000 on page 2



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer

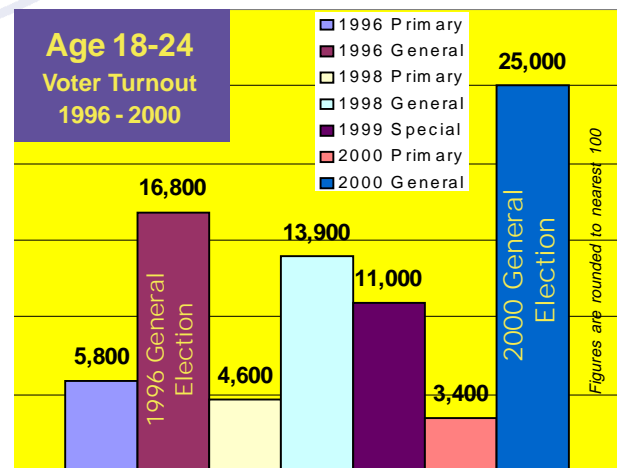


Chart of voter turnout for age 18-24 year olds shows significant increase for 2000.

voting by Alaska's 18-24 year olds.

The increase in voter turnout is dramatic when you compare the 1996 Presidential Election to the 2000 Election: 16,889 people in this age group voted in 1996, whereas over 25,000 voted in the 2000 General Election.

"We are delighted our efforts produced an increase in young voters this election," Ulmer said. "I hope to continue that success through the work of a newly created civics education task force that will make suggestions about strengthening and expanding civics

curriculum in Alaska."

Let's Vote! Alaska was launched at the University of Alaska Anchorage with the appointment of a bipartisan advisory committee comprised of young Alaskans. The advisory

board devised an ambitious work plan and helped to implement it. The successful plan included broad outreach strategies. ▲

--See strategies on page 2

Let's Vote! Alaska: Strategies

Youth celebrity ads

NHL superstar Scott Gomez and Hollywood actress Irene Bedard, both originally from Alaska, starred in two 30-second spots encouraging their peers to vote.



Scott Gomez took time off from his busy schedule to shoot a TV promo for Let's Vote! Alaska.

University campus outreach

Let's Vote! Alaska staged three seminars on youth voting on university campuses in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

High school online mock election

Over 2,500 high school students in Alaska participated in Youth-e Vote, the first-ever online mock election for high school students. Students were assigned personal identification numbers that guaranteed a secure one-person, one-vote election. The Alaska Association of Student Governments and the high school leadership group, co-coordinated this effort in Alaska.

Direct mailings

Over 7,000 recent high school graduates received "how to vote" brochures in June; over 8,000 student loan recipients received absentee by-mail applications in September.

Each One Reach One

Ulmer asked over 100 service organizations to challenge their members to adopt a young voter and get them to the polls. Candidates were also challenged to reach out to young people by participating in youth debates in schools and by including young people in their campaigns.

Youth Voter Captains

Twenty of the largest youth employers in the state designated youth voter captains to inform their employees about the importance of voting.

Communications

A Let's Vote! Alaska web page was created containing important youth voting information and interesting voting links. An e-mail message was sent to approximately 13,000 University of Alaska students encouraging them to vote and telling them about polling places on university campuses. ▲

LET'S VOTE!
alaska

New oters for a
New Millennium

Elections 2000

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Alaska has gone beyond punch cards! In 1998, I asked the Legislature to fund a new vote counting system called Accu-Vote which uses optical scanning technology. The Legislature agreed and we implemented this system statewide, although in the smallest precincts, election workers still count the ballots manually.

Using the Accu-Vote machines also avoids the problem encountered in Palm Beach County where thousands of voters accidentally voted twice in the same race and their ballots weren't counted. If an Alaska voter accidentally double votes in a single race, the ballot is instantly rejected by the Accu-Vote machine and the voter can ask for a new ballot.

Alaska's Division of Elections staff is experienced, professional, and committed to running the best possible election system. Accuracy, integrity, efficiency, and voter convenience are our priorities. The men and women at the Division, as well as the many volunteers who help us run statewide elections, are an invaluable part of the system. They do an important job and they deserve our thanks. ▲

Online Public Notice

Alaska became one of the first states in the nation to require state agencies to post all public notices on the Internet. Legislation last year replaced the Alaska Administrative Journal with the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

"Now information on regulations, contracts, requests for proposals or boards and commissions vacancies are available at one convenient website on the state's homepage," said Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer.

The Online Public Notice system can be found at notes.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf. ▲

Telecom Update **State earns awards**

At the request of Governor Tony Knowles, Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer has chaired the Telecommunications Information Council (TIC) since 1995. The TIC is responsible for developing policy for voice, video and data systems within state government.

Over the years, the state has been recognized as a leader in using technology to make government more customer-friendly. Alaska was recently ranked the third most digital state in the nation by the Center for Digital Government.

Under Ulmer's leadership, the TIC continues to explore how information technology can best be used by state government:

More telecom news...

TIC Advisory Committee on Geographic Information

This group concentrates on geographic information systems and how the state can work in partnership with federal agencies and the private sector. The committee recently published *The Geographic Information Strategic Plan* for the state.

TIC Advisory Committee on Electronic Signatures for State Government

This appointed group is working on evaluating and coordinating the use of electronic signatures for state government. Regulations to implement Alaska's new digital signature law were implemented in 2000. Certification authorities, the businesses that sell digital signature certificates to the public, now can register with the State of Alaska.

Other TIC Initiatives

□ Satellite imagery use by state agencies was the focus of a TIC-sponsored conference.

□ A telecommunications partnership project that involves seeking proposals from telecommunications providers to take over portions of the state-owned telecommunications network is now underway.

□ A privacy conference will be held in the fall to discuss security, access to public information and privacy issues. ▲

Denali Commission

Lt. Governor Ulmer serves as state co-chair of the Denali Commission on behalf of Governor Tony Knowles. Jeff Staser serves as the federal co-chair.

The Commission was created by Congress in 1998 to promote basic rural infrastructure, economic development and job training in the Bush. One of its many goals is to improve coordination among federal and state agencies.

The commission got off to a running start, initially focusing on basic rural energy needs. Of the \$48 million received from Congress in FFY99 and FFY00, approximately \$30 million went to bulk fuel storage tank repair and consolidation and to power system repairs and upgrades.

In FFY00 the commission adopted a second major infrastructure area--rural health clinics. Based on a statewide survey of rural health clinic needs funded by the commission, an inter-agency group developed criteria for prioritizing clinic needs around the state. The commission has received \$10 million in federal funding for rural clinic construction.

The commission also funded a survey in the year 2000 that assessed telecommunications services in rural Alaska. The survey was completed at the end of the year and will be used to determine the depth and breadth of gaps in Internet, voice and video connections in rural Alaska. ▲

Lt. Governor Ulmer served as moderator for Education Summit 2000 in Girdwood.



Land Managers Forum

Improving cooperation and coordination

The Alaska Land Managers Forum, a joint federal-state-Native organization, was created to improve cooperation and coordination among public and private land managers in the state. It is co-chaired by Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, AFN Vice-President Nelson Angapak and the Special Staff Assistant for Alaska to the Secretary of the Department of Interior. The Forum continued its focus on tourism and public and Native lands, targeting particularly the Chitna-McCarthy-Copper River Valley Region.

The Forum's coordination efforts in the region included working with local residents, communities, corporations and federal and state agencies to plan for regional tourism development and transportation improvements that will benefit the residents and retain community values.

Each year the Alaska Land Managers' Forum recognizes excellence in environmentally and culturally responsible tourism activities with an annual award. Categories include Outstanding Long Term Program; Best Improvement or Innovation; Outstanding Public/Private Partnership; and Outstanding Enhancement of Cultural Tourism. ▲

Alaska Community Service Commission

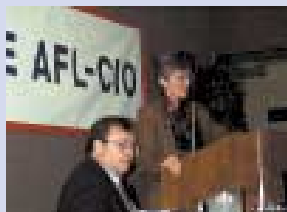
Since October 1999, Lt. Governor Ulmer has chaired the Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC). In this role, she helps the Commission to administer its federal grants and actively promotes community service and volunteerism in Alaska.

Ulmer started the year 2000 by spending Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Yakutat with youth volunteers from the Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council and the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association. The volunteers replenished the community's food bank and conducted diversity training in the local schools.

ASCSC continues to find new ways to encourage partnerships in service. This year the Commission offered Learn and Serve grants to Craig High School, the Aniak School District and Anchorage's Wendler Middle School.

For more information about the Commission, contact Judy Salo, Executive Director of the ASCSC at (907) 269-4500. ▲

Left to right: (1) With AFL-CIO's Mano Frey; (2) Honoring Juneau's Mike Miller (3) Election night on public radio with Robert Howk; (4) Holding a press conference on the primary election.



NPAFC

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

Lt. Governor Ulmer's role as President of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) took her to Tokyo last fall where she presided at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the international salmon conservation, research and enforcement organization.

At the Tokyo meeting, NPAFC members took research coordination to a new level by agreeing for the first time on joint priorities for high seas salmon research. These three shared priorities are: Bering Sea salmon research, juvenile salmon research, and winter salmon research. This will provide a stronger focus for research funds and lay the

groundwork for increased cooperation and closer coordination. This joint effort will help members as they seek answers about where salmon go in the open ocean, how they interact, and the effects of ocean conditions on productivity and salmon stocks.

The NPAFC member nations--Canada, Japan, Russia and the U.S.--meet annually to coordinate scientific research and high seas law enforcement activities. Ulmer has been a member of the Commission since her appointment in 1994. ▲



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer chairs a meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

Voc-Ed

A vision for Alaska's future

As a member of the Alaska Human Resource Investment Council (AHRIC) Lt. Governor Ulmer helped to develop a blueprint to guide the state's policies and investments in vocational education.

In May of 2000 the Legislature asked AHRIC to develop a plan for coordination of policies in vocational education. Ulmer headed the stakeholder team effort by recruiting a group of 60 Alaskans to help guide the plan's development.

The plan was delivered to the Legislature in January of 2001. ▲

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Boards & Commissions

Lt. Governor Ulmer is a member of several statewide and national boards and commissions:

Chair, Telecommunications Information Council

Chair, Alaska State Community Services Commission

Chair, Alaska Historical Commission

Governor's Children's Cabinet

Alaska Human Resources Investment Council

Alaska Science & Technology Foundation Board

Co-Chair, Denali Commission

Co-Chair, Alaska Land Managers Forum

President, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

Federal Elections Commission

FCC Local/State Government Advisory Committee

Vice-chair, Aerospace States Association

National Association of Secretaries of States

National Conference of Lieutenant Governors